

## APPENDIX 1: King County Sub-Regional Analysis

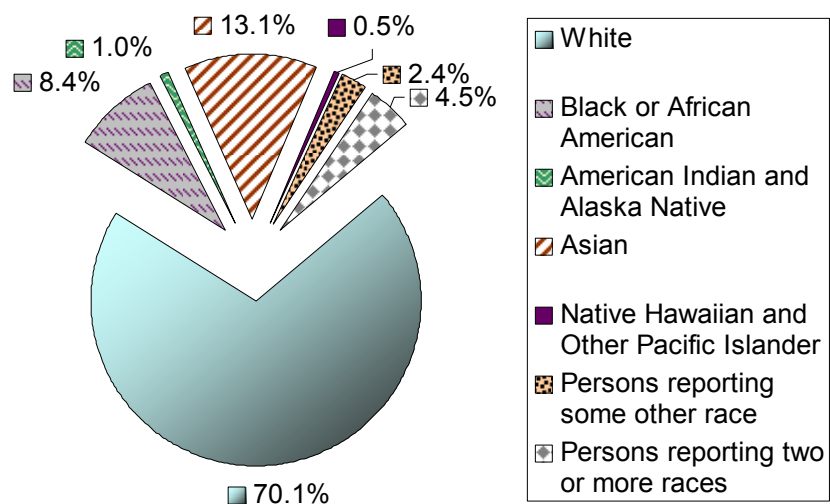
Since King County is large, the county was divided into four regions for analysis purposes: Central King County, East King County, North King County and South King County (including Vashon Island). A summary of HYS information and other data by sub-region follows. The goal is to understand the risk and protective factors that emerge in different regions. As the HYS data was aggregated by region, it is not representative of any school district and reflects considerable variation.

### Data Report: Central Region

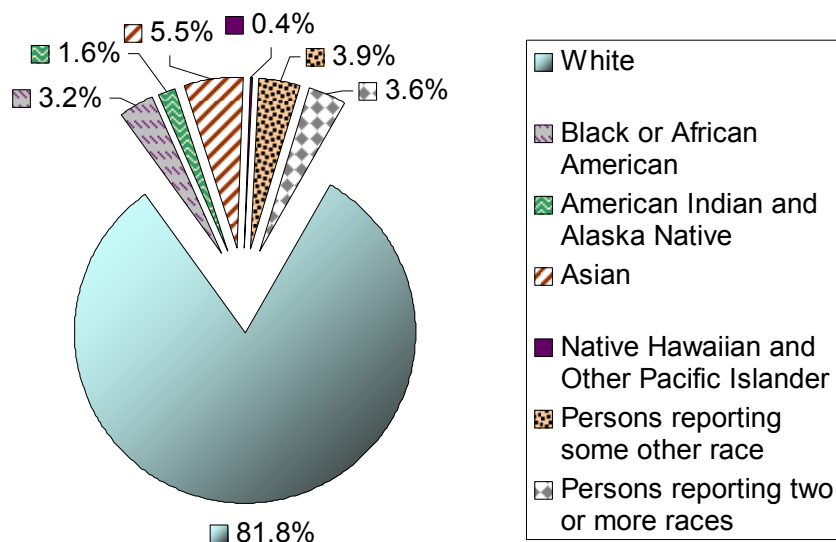
For the purposes of this strategic plan, the Central Region consists of the City of Seattle, the largest population center in Washington State. According to the 2000 U.S. Census, Seattle's population was 563,374 which comprises approximately one-third of King County's population of 1,737,034 and one-tenth of Washington State's population of 5,894,121.<sup>1</sup> Furthermore, the 2000 U.S. Census data showed:

- A larger percentage of foreign born persons reside in Seattle (16.9%) than King County (15.4%) and Washington (10.9%).
- One out of every five Seattle residents (ages 5 and above) speak a language other than English at home. This compares to one in every seven residents of Washington State.
- In 1999, more people lived below poverty in Seattle (11.8%) than Washington (10.6%).
- Seattle has a sizeable population of Latinos and Hispanics (5.3%); however, this is lower than that for Washington (7.5%).
- Seattle youth population (under 18 years old) is 15.6% which is lower than that of King County (21.3%) and Washington State (25.7 %).
- Seattle is more diverse racially than Washington State (see comparison charts below).

City of Seattle Population by Race, 2000 U.S. Census Bureau



State of Washington Population by Race, 2000 U.S. Census Bureau



The sole school district in the Central Region is Seattle Public Schools. With a total of 97 schools, Seattle Public Schools is the largest public school system in Washington, and the 44th largest in the United States.

### Healthy Youth Survey Data

#### *Risk Factors*

- From 6<sup>th</sup> grade to 10<sup>th</sup> grade, there is general upward trend in the percentage of students at risk for each specific risk factor.
- In the Community domain, the highest ranked risk factor is “Transitions and Mobility” for 8<sup>th</sup> grade (48.8%), and 10<sup>th</sup> grade (52.9%). Data was unavailable at the 6<sup>th</sup> grade because this item was only asked on the HYS for the secondary school level. “Community Laws and Norms Favorable to Drug Use” is the highest ranked risk factor at 6<sup>th</sup> grade (40%) – it is also among the top three risk factors for 8<sup>th</sup> (35.3%), and 10<sup>th</sup> grades (44.1%).
- In the Family Domain, the highest ranked risk factor is “Parental Attitudes Favorable to Antisocial Behavior” for 8<sup>th</sup> grade (51.3%), and 10<sup>th</sup> grade (53.8%). The second highest risk factor is “Poor Family Management” for 8<sup>th</sup> grade (45.5%), and 10<sup>th</sup> grade (48.7%). Family Domain items were not asked on the 6<sup>th</sup> grade HYS.
- In the Individual-Peer Domain, the highest-ranking risk factor for 6<sup>th</sup> grade (41.0 %) is “Perceived Risk of Drug Use”. The top risk factor for 8<sup>th</sup> grade is “Rewards for Antisocial Involvement” (53.8%) and for 10<sup>th</sup> grade is “Interaction with Antisocial Peers” (51.8%).
- In the School Domain, the top risk factor for 6<sup>th</sup> grade is “Low Commitment to School” (47.7%). “Academic Failure” is the highest risk factor for 8<sup>th</sup> grade (44.4%), and 10<sup>th</sup> grade (49.0%). This is a measure student’s academic performance, and how they rate themselves in comparison to their peers.

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### *Protective Factors*

- From 6<sup>th</sup> grade to 10<sup>th</sup> grade, there are fluctuations in the percentage of students who are protected. No clear pattern appears as the different grade levels are compared for each protective factor.
- In the Community domain, the protective factor showing the lowest level of students protected is “Rewards for Prosocial Involvement” for 6<sup>th</sup> grade (36.7%), 8<sup>th</sup> grade (47.4%), and 10<sup>th</sup> grade (58.2%) which was lower than that of the King County rates for 6<sup>th</sup> grade (40.8%), 8<sup>th</sup> grade (58.8%), and 10<sup>th</sup> grade (58.4%).
- In the Family Domain, the following protective factor having the lowest level for 6<sup>th</sup> grade students protected was “Opportunities for Prosocial Involvement” (52.2%) as compared to the King County rate (59.3%). The 8<sup>th</sup> grade and 10<sup>th</sup> grade data for Protective Factors in the Family Domain were unavailable.
- In the Individual-Peer Domain, the protective factor showing the lowest levels of students protected was “Interactions with Anti-Social Peers” in 6<sup>th</sup> grades (44.5%). The protective factor with the lowest rates was “Prosocial Involvement” for 8<sup>th</sup> grade (44.9%) and 10<sup>th</sup> grade (46.6%).
- In the School Domain, the protective factor showing the lowest levels of students protected is “Rewards for Prosocial Involvement” for 6<sup>th</sup> grade (50.7%) and 8<sup>th</sup> grade (47.5%). For 10<sup>th</sup> grade the protective factor showing the lowest level of students protected is “Opportunities for Prosocial Involvement” with a rate of 55.7%.

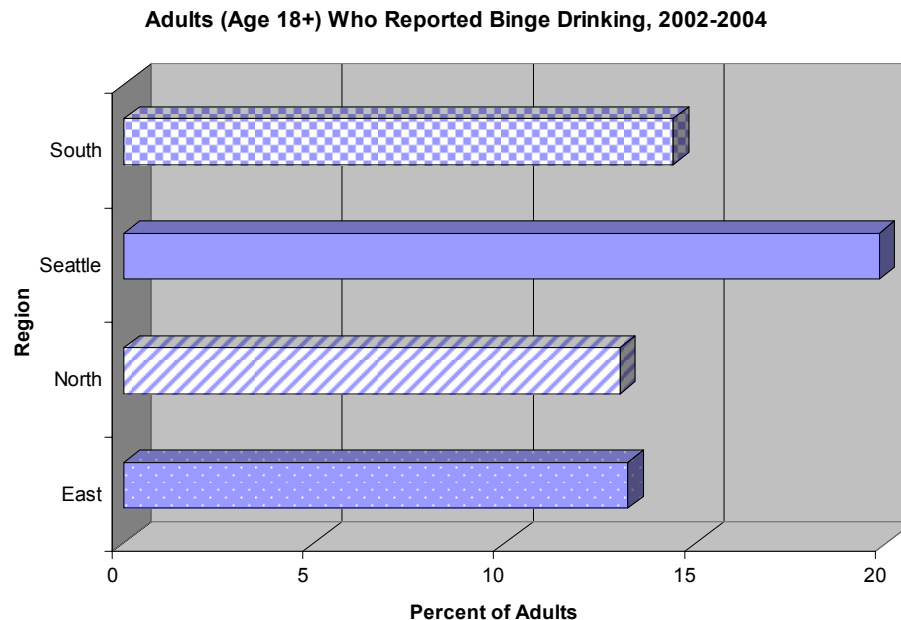
### *Other Prevalence Data*

- The percentage of students who reported drinking alcohol in the past month of the survey jumps dramatically from 6<sup>th</sup> grade (4.9%) through 10<sup>th</sup> grade (31.5%). The 8<sup>th</sup> grade rate is 17.4% almost half of 10<sup>th</sup> grade.
- The percentage of students who reported using marijuana or hashish in the past month of the survey jumps from 6<sup>th</sup> grade (2.5%) through 10<sup>th</sup> grade (23%). The 8<sup>th</sup> grade rate is 11.4% that is more than half for 10<sup>th</sup> grade.
- The percentage of students who reported ever seriously considered attempting suicide, in the past year was higher for 8<sup>th</sup> grade at (14.6%) compared to the 10<sup>th</sup> grade (12.5%).
- The percentage of students who reported being bullied in the past month of the survey drops dramatically from 6<sup>th</sup> grade (30.5%) through 10<sup>th</sup> grade (15%). The 8<sup>th</sup> grade rate is 27.7%. The biggest change was from 8<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> grade.

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### Other Alcohol and Other Drug Prevention Data

According to the 2005 Communities Count Report, Seattle had the highest rate for adults who reported binge drinking (defined as consuming 5 or more alcoholic drinks on one occasion in the past 30 days) as shown in the below chart.



### Other Violence Prevention Data

According to the 2005 Communities Count Report, the rate of major domestic violence (DV) crimes (murder, rape, robbery and aggravated assault) decreased from 1997 to 2003 in Seattle and in King County overall.<sup>1</sup> For the five-year period 1999 to 2003, Seattle's rate of 126.7 DV crimes per 100,000 persons was more than 1.6 times higher than the South Region and King County, three times higher than the North Region and five times higher than the East Region.

### Emerging Issues and Other Concerns

Among a host of issues facing Seattle, King County staff identified the following emerging and concerning issues:

- Gang-related property crime appears to be increasing
- Tagging and gang-related graffiti appear to be increasing
- There seems to be resurgence of illegal gangs relocating to Seattle
- Methamphetamine use by young adults appears to be on the rise
- There seems to be an increase in youth homelessness and lack of shelter beds

### **Data Report: East Region**

The East Region of King County, also referred to as the Eastside, is a unique area in many ways, including geographically. For the purposes of this report, East King County includes: (a) populations under 1,000 – Baring, Beaux Arts Village, Hunts Point, Skykomish; (b) populations between 1,000 and 6,000 – Ames Lake, Carnation, Clyde Hill, Duvall, Eastgate, Fall City, Lake Marcel-Stillwater, Medina, North Bend, Mirrormont, Riverbend, Tanner, West Lake Sammamish, Yarrow Point; and (c) populations above 6,000 – Bellevue, Issaquah Kenmore, Kingsgate, Kirkland, Mercer Island, Newcastle, Redmond, Sammamish, Union Hill-Novelty

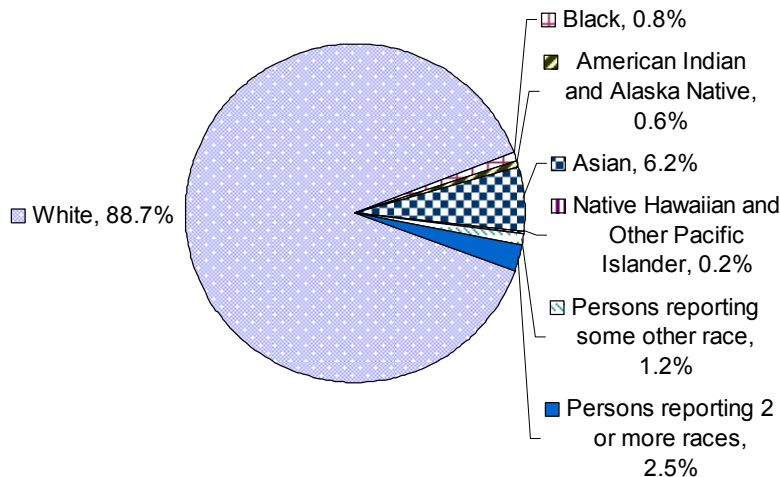
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Hill, Woodinville.

The Eastside ranges from the urban (including Bellevue, Redmond) to the more rural Snoqualmie Valley. It includes more affluent communities, such as Mercer Island, to areas facing more economic challenges, such as Skykomish.

The population of East King County was more than 364,816 in the 2000 Census. This region is predominantly White, as shown in the chart below, and has a more homogenous population than Washington State.

**East King County Population by Race, 2000 U.S. Census Bureau**



The Eastside is growing increasingly diverse. Redmond and Bellevue are among ten cities in the state with the largest increase in foreign-born residents between 1990 and 2000. More than 12% of households report a language other than English spoken at home. The percentage of people living in poverty on the Eastside doubled between 1990 and 2000, from 2.16% to 4.68 %.

During 2004, more than 40,000 Eastside families used area food banks. The population is also growing older. By the year 2025, elderly residents (60 or older) will make up nearly a quarter of the Eastside's population.

The East King County Region encompasses seven school districts: Bellevue, Issaquah, Lake Washington, Mercer Island, Riverview, Skykomish and Snoqualmie.

### Healthy Youth Survey Data

#### *Risk Factors*

- From 6<sup>th</sup> grade to 10<sup>th</sup> grade, there is general upward trend in the percentage of East King County students at risk for each specific risk factor.

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- Risk factors rates for East King County are generally lower compared with the other regions, as well as the State and County rates.
  - In the Community domain, the highest ranked risk factor is “Transitions and Mobility” for 8<sup>th</sup> grade (42.5%), and 10<sup>th</sup> grade (57.8%). Data was unavailable at the 6<sup>th</sup> grade because this item was only asked on the HYS for the secondary school level. “Community Laws and Norms Favorable to Drug Use” is the highest ranked risk factor at 6<sup>th</sup> grade (29.7%). “Perceived Availability of Drugs” was the second highest risk factor for 6<sup>th</sup> grade (17.4%) and 10<sup>th</sup> grades (29.8%). The second highest risk factor for 8<sup>th</sup> grade is “Perceived Availability of Handguns” at (22.8 %).
  - In the Family Domain, the highest ranked risk factor is “Parental Attitudes Favorable to Antisocial Behavior” for 8<sup>th</sup> grade (40.3%), and 10<sup>th</sup> grade (48.9%). The second highest risk factor is “Poor Family Management” for 8<sup>th</sup> grade (34%) and 10<sup>th</sup> (40%). Family Domain items were not asked on the 6<sup>th</sup> grade HYS.
  - In the Individual-Peer Domain, “Perceived Risk of Drug Use” is the highest ranking risk factor for 6<sup>th</sup> grade (23.2%). The top risk factor was “Rewards for Antisocial Involvement” for 8<sup>th</sup> grade (38.7%) and 10<sup>th</sup> (42.9%)
  - In the School Domain, “Low Commitment to School” is the top risk factor for 6<sup>th</sup> grade (41.4%) and 10<sup>th</sup> grade (45.6%). “Academic Failure” is a highest risk factor for 8<sup>th</sup> grade (45.3%).

#### *Protective Factors*

- From 6<sup>th</sup> grade to 10<sup>th</sup> grade, there is general upward trend in the percentage of East King County students who are protected for each specific protective factor.
- Protective factor rates for East King County are generally higher than the other regions, as well as State and County averages.
- In the Community domain, the protective factor showing the lowest level of students protected is “Rewards for Prosocial Involvement” for all grades: 6<sup>th</sup> grade (40.3%), 8<sup>th</sup> grade (60.3%) and 10<sup>th</sup> grade (63.2%).
- In the Family Domain, the following protective factors are closely ranked as having the lowest levels of 6<sup>th</sup> grade students protected: “Opportunities for Prosocial Involvement” (68.2%) and “Rewards for Prosocial Involvement” (73.0%). HYS data for 8<sup>th</sup> grade and 10<sup>th</sup> grade levels were unavailable for Family Domain items.
- In the Individual-Peer Domain, the protective factor showing the lowest level of students In the Family Domain, the following protective factors are closely ranked as having the lowest levels of 6<sup>th</sup> grade students protected: “Opportunities for Prosocial Involvement” (68.2%) and “Rewards for Prosocial Involvement” (73.0%). HYS data for 8<sup>th</sup> grade and 10<sup>th</sup> grade levels were unavailable for Family Domain items.

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- In the Individual-Peer Domain, the protective factor showing the lowest level of students protected is “Prosocial Involvement” for all grades: 6<sup>th</sup> grade (54.2%), 8<sup>th</sup> grade (46.6%) and 10<sup>th</sup> grade (55.4%).
  - In the School Domain, the protective factor showing the lowest level of students protected is “Rewards for Prosocial Involvement” for 6<sup>th</sup> grade (54.3%) and 8<sup>th</sup> grade (60.2%). The protective factor with the lowest rate for 10<sup>th</sup> grade is “Opportunities for Prosocial Involvement” (60.3%).

#### *Other Prevalence Data*

- The percentage of students who reported drinking alcohol in the past month of the survey increased from 6<sup>th</sup> grade (2.4%) through 10<sup>th</sup> grade (23.6%). The 8<sup>th</sup> grade rate of 12.1% is five times the 6<sup>th</sup> grade rate and almost half the 10<sup>th</sup> grade rate.
- The percentage of students who reported using marijuana or hashish in the past month of the survey jumps from 6<sup>th</sup> grade (0.7%) through 10<sup>th</sup> grade (10.4%). The 8<sup>th</sup> grade rate is 5.0% which is close to half of the 10<sup>th</sup> grade rate.
- The percentage of students who reported ever seriously considered attempting suicide in the past year of the survey range from 8<sup>th</sup> grade (12.0%) to 10<sup>th</sup> grade (14.7%).
- The percentage of students who reported being bullied in the past month of the survey drops steadily from 6<sup>th</sup> grade (27.9%) through 10<sup>th</sup> grade (22.6%). The 8<sup>th</sup> grade rate is 25.8%.

Among 6<sup>th</sup> graders, East King County has generally lower risk factors than other regions, as well as County and State averages. 6<sup>th</sup> grade protective factors are mostly higher than the other regions, and prevalence data (alcohol use in the last 30 days, marijuana use in the last 30 days, suicidal ideation, and being bullied in the last 30 days) is also lower in East King County than other regions. In the 8<sup>th</sup> grade data, East King County also looks fairly good.

Although East King County appears to be faring better than other areas, one troubling statistic, however, is an elevated risk factor (45.3% as compared to 42.6% County average) among Eastside 8<sup>th</sup> graders regarding academic failure. Among Eastside 10<sup>th</sup> graders, this trend seems to continue. While risk factors are generally low and protective factors high, there are a few areas of concern. Eastside 10<sup>th</sup> graders are at the highest risk of low commitment to school (45.6% compared to 43% County average) of any region.

Eastside 10<sup>th</sup> graders also reported a rate of 42.9% on the risk factor rewards for antisocial involvement. This is a higher rate than either Seattle or South King County, though it is slightly below the County average of 43%. Another problem area is bullying, as 22.6% of Eastside 10<sup>th</sup> graders reported being bullied in the last 30 days (as compared to 20.4% County average). Therefore, while the Eastside seems to be doing fairly well in reducing risks and promoting protective factors, there are areas that need attention.

#### Other Alcohol and Other Drug Prevention Data

According to the 2004 HYS, 10% of tenth graders on the Eastside reported that they had been

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drunk or high at school, while more than 12% said they had consumed five or more drinks in a row within the past two weeks. Meanwhile, the wait to see a substance abuse counselor on the Eastside is up to four weeks, while some are turned away all together. According to the Youth Eastside Services

- Teenage girls are increasingly developing substance abuse problems
- More substance abuse and mental health services are needed for Hispanic youth, and for the children of immigrant and refugee families
- Many teenagers have multiple issues, including depression or self-harm behaviors, such as cutting.

#### Other Violence Prevention Data

The 2004 HYS showed that 12% of Eastside 8<sup>th</sup> graders and 15% of Eastside 10<sup>th</sup> graders contemplated suicide over the past year. Three Eastside high school students did commit suicide in early 2005. In addition to the increasing problem of suicide ideation and attempts, other violence issues are increasing on the Eastside. Gangs, both formal and informal, are on the rise. Violence Prevention Specialists report seeing more race and homophobic issues developing, especially as demographics change on the Eastside. Tensions also arise as disparities increase between the affluent and those with less money. Cyber bullying and use of technology as a bullying tool is becoming more popular than ever. Sites like Myspace, Facebook, and Xanga give teens access to new ways to share information that can be forms of harassment or bullying.

#### Emerging Issues and Other Concerns

Community groups on the Eastside are mobilizing to address many issues. A primary concern of late is access to mental health services, particularly for young people, in order to help them before they get to the point of considering suicide or becoming involved in the justice system. Proposals to establish health clinics at middle and/or high schools with primary care as well as mental health counseling are increasingly being discussed on the Eastside.

In addition, there is a new emphasis on enhancing programs within the Family Domain, particularly parenting classes to help reduce family management problems and other issues. Programs such as Guiding Good Choices (which targets parents of middle school-aged children/youth) have lengthy waiting lists, and parents are asking for help with both younger children and teens.

As youth-serving agencies, such as Friends of Youth and Youth Eastside Services, consider moving away from providing schools with prevention/intervention specialists, there is a widening discussion among these agencies and other community groups impacting systems change regarding increased support for parents as well as increased focus on mental health issues.

#### **Data Report: North Region**

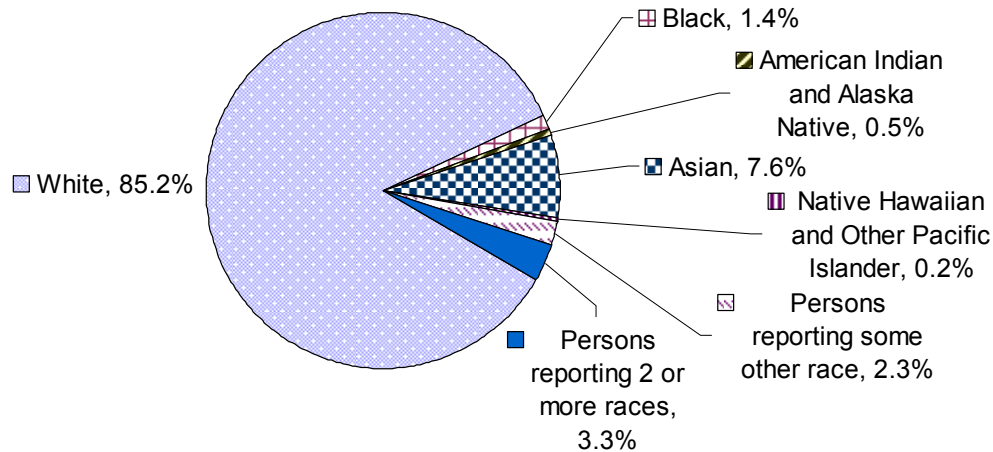
The North Region of King County consists of six suburban cities (Shoreline, Bothell, Kenmore, Lake Forest Park, Cottage Lake and Woodinville). Figures from the 2000 U.S. Census show North King County's total population of 148,292; this comprises 8.54% percent of King County's total population of 1,737,034.



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The 2000 U.S. Census data shows that the population is mainly White (more than 85% of the total population). The second largest racial population is Asian (7.6%) which is slightly higher than the Washington State average of 6.4%.

### North King County Population by Race, 2000 U.S. Census Bureau



Other figures from the 2000 U.S. Census regarding the North King County area include the following:

- The youth population under 18 years old for Shoreline, Bothell and Kenmore is (18.16%) which is close to half of what the Washington State average is (23.6%).
- The youth population under 19 years old for Lake Forest Park, Cottage Lane and Woodinville's 2000 U.S. Census data is (7.57%).
- The North King County has a small Hispanics / Latino population (4.09%) which is less than half of Washington State rate (8.8%).
- The non-English speaking populations for North King County was slightly lower (13.42%) than the Washington State average of (14.0%).
- The foreign born populations living in North King County is slightly higher (11.80%) than Washington State (10.4%).
- Data from 1999 shows a considerable lower percentage of persons living below poverty in North King County (3.82%) compared to Washington State (11.0%)

The North King County Region is comprised of Northshore and Shoreline School Districts.

Healthy Youth Survey Data  
*Risk Factors*

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- From 6<sup>th</sup> grade to 10<sup>th</sup> grade, there is general upward trend in the percentage of students at risk for each specific risk factor.
  - There appears to be generally lower risk for North King County compared to the other three regions.
  - In the Community domain, the highest ranked risk factor is “Transitions and Mobility” for 8<sup>th</sup> grade (40.5%), and 10<sup>th</sup> grade (62.0%). Data was unavailable at the 6<sup>th</sup> grade because this item was only asked on the HYS for the secondary school level. “Community Laws and Norms Favorable to Drug Use” is the highest ranked risk factor at 6<sup>th</sup> grade (35.0%) – it is also among the top three risk factors for 8<sup>th</sup> (23.2%), and 10<sup>th</sup> grades (32.1%).
  - In the Family Domain, data was unavailable at all levels because the family domain questions were not asked in HYS for the North King County.
  - In the Individual-Peer Domain, “Perceived Risk of Drug Use” is the highest-ranking risk factor for 6<sup>th</sup> grade (29.6%). “Rewards for Antisocial Involvement” ranks highest for 8<sup>th</sup> grade (45%) and 10<sup>th</sup> grade (46.8%).
  - In the School Domain, the top risk factor for 6<sup>th</sup> grade is “Low Commitment to School” (46.1%). “Academic Failure” is the highest risk factor for 8<sup>th</sup> grade (41.9%), and 10<sup>th</sup> grade (44.6%).

#### *Protective Factors*

- From 6<sup>th</sup> grade to 10<sup>th</sup> grade, there are fluctuations in the percentage of students who are protected.
- In the Community domain, there is only one protective factor listed for 6<sup>th</sup> grade, “Rewards for Prosocial Involvement,” (43.1%). The protective factor showing the highest level of students protected is “Opportunities for Prosocial Involvement” for 8<sup>th</sup> grade (79%) and 10<sup>th</sup> grade (73.7%). The protective factor showing the lowest level of students protected is “Rewards for Prosocial Involvement” for 8<sup>th</sup> grade (59.8%) and 10<sup>th</sup> grade (61.1%).
- In the Family Domain, data was unavailable at all levels because the family domain questions were not asked in HYS for the North King County.
- For the Individual-Peer Domain, many of the protective factors for all the grades were higher than that of King County overall. The protective factor showing the lowest level of students protected is “Prosocial Involvement” for 6<sup>th</sup> grade (48.5%), 8<sup>th</sup> grade (43.5%) and 10<sup>th</sup> (46.9%).
- In the School Domain, the protective factor showing the lowest level of students protected is “Rewards for Prosocial Involvement” for 6<sup>th</sup> grade (59.3%), 8<sup>th</sup> grade (56.3%) and 10<sup>th</sup> (61.4%). This same protective factor is closely ranked with “Opportunities for Prosocial Involvement” as having the lowest levels of 8<sup>th</sup> (64.8%) and 10<sup>th</sup> grade students protected, with rates of 63.1%.

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### *Other Prevalence Data*

- The percentage of students who reported drinking alcohol in the past month of the survey increased from 6<sup>th</sup> grade (3.4%) through 10<sup>th</sup> grade (29.5%). The 8<sup>th</sup> grade rate is 13.5% approximately half of the 10<sup>th</sup> grade rate.
- The percentage of students who reported using marijuana or hashish in the past month of the survey jumps from 6<sup>th</sup> grade (0.5%) through 10<sup>th</sup> grade (18.8%). The 8<sup>th</sup> grade rate is 6.3%, which is almost three times that of the 10<sup>th</sup> grade.
- The percentage of students who reported ever seriously considered attempting suicide in the past year of the survey increased from 8<sup>th</sup> grade (13.3%) to 10<sup>th</sup> grade (19.1%).
- The percentage of students who reported being bullied in the past month of the survey drops from 6<sup>th</sup> grade (28.1%) through 10<sup>th</sup> grade (21.6%). The 8<sup>th</sup> grade rate is 27.8%.

### Additional Data Related to Alcohol and Other Drugs, Violence, Physical and Mental Health

During March 2006, two community forums, “Teens A Talkin’ Are We Listening?,” were held in North King County. The Shoreline and Northshore School Districts and the King County Community Organizing Program collaborated in offering these forums which featured “How the Brain Works” by Victoria Tennant, M.Ed. The forum also included a presentation related to Teen Responses to the Healthy Youth Survey by Sue Eastgard, Director of the Youth Suicide Prevention Program.

The following are some of the responses from attendees at the community forum:

- Among the biggest problems facing teens when it comes to violence and other general concerns about safety, 20 responses related to Abuse/Harassment, including verbal and physical abuse, family violence, sexual abuse, sexual harassment, and dating violence. Other problems mentioned were community violence, violence occurring off-school grounds, violence triggered by alcohol and other drug use, theft.
- Among the biggest problems facing teens when it comes to alcohol and other drug use, the majority of responses identified peer pressure. A few others mentioned stress and lack of social outlet as problems. Comments included:
  - “Students being force-fed so much in our lives, alcohol and drugs present a fantastic escape/opportunity to rebel”

Other responses discussed how youth tend to minimize the effects of use. In addition, participants talked about the prevalence of alcohol and other drugs, as well as negative consequences from use. Comments included:

- “The fact is that drugs and alcohol are easy to get a hold of, it’s hard to avoid”
- “Parents don’t worry about what you [are doing]; most chances are kids will drink, smoke, do other things”

Among the biggest problems facing teens when it comes to mental health, the majority of responses addressed triggers, with other responses related to stress, mental fatigue,

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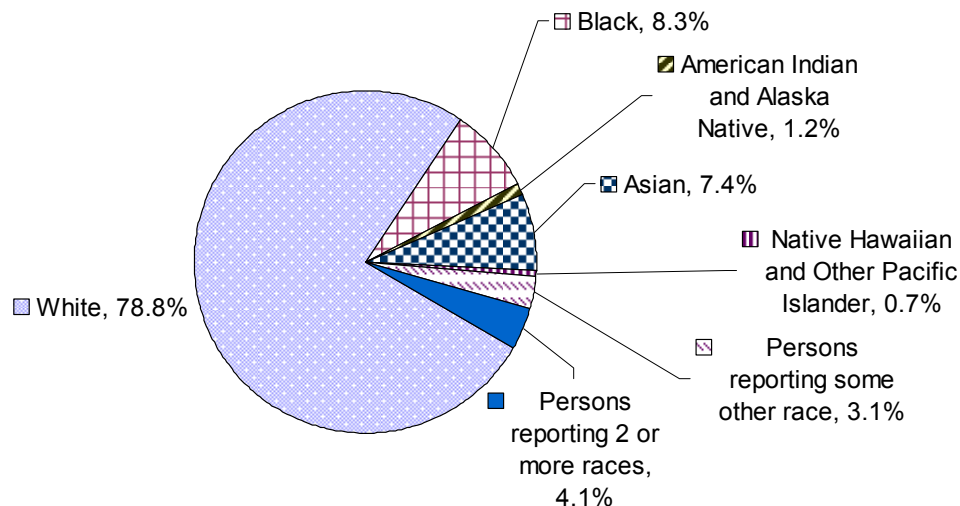
abuse/harassment, self image drug use, and specific types of mental health problems, such as depression and ADD/ADHD.

### **Data Report: South Region, including Vashon Island**

For the purposes of this report, South King County captures the following geographic areas: Algona, Auburn, Black Diamond, Bryn Mawr-Skyway, Burien, Covington, Des Moines, Enumclaw, Federal Way, Kent, Maple Valley, Normandy Park, Pacific, Renton, SeaTac, Tukwila, Vashon Island, and White Center in unincorporated King County.

According to the 2000 U.S. Census, the population of South King County is 539,653, comprising close to one-third of King County's total population. As shown below (see below chart), this region is also more diverse racially than Washington State.

**South King County Population by Race, 2000 U.S. Census Bureau**



Currently, approximately one in four South King County residents is a person of color.

South King County has a large share of the County's total population, more of its children and a much higher proportion of households with children, 39.9%. Of all children living in King County, 43.0% live in South King County. It has the highest number of families living below the poverty level, over 9,538, and the largest number of single parent households. In South King County, more people are on food stamps and in Washington State's Temporary Aid to Needy Families Program compared to other parts of King County. The percentage of South King County public school students in the Federal Free or Reduced Lunch Program is nearly three times higher than in other parts of King County.

South King County has a disproportionately large share of young, poor and immigrant families with children where the need out paces the funding for services to help these struggling families get on their feet and stay there.

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The South King County Region is comprised of nine school districts which include Auburn, Enumclaw, Federal Way, Highline, Kent, Renton, Tahoma, Tukwila and Vashon.

### Healthy Youth Survey Data

#### *Risk Factors*

- From 6<sup>th</sup> grade to 10<sup>th</sup> grade, there is general upward trend in the percentage of students at risk for each specific risk factor.
- There appears to be generally higher risk for South King County compared to the other three regions.
- In the Community domain, the highest ranked risk factor is “Transitions and Mobility” for 8<sup>th</sup> grade (58%), and 10<sup>th</sup> grade (67.2%). Data for “Transitions and Mobility” was unavailable at the 6<sup>th</sup> grade; this item was only asked on the HYS for the secondary school level. “Community Laws and Norms Favorable to Drug Use” is the highest ranked risk factor at 6<sup>th</sup> grade (36.5%) – it is also the second highest risk factors for 8<sup>th</sup> (31.9%), and 10<sup>th</sup> grades (38.1%).
- In the Family Domain, the highest ranked risk factor is “Parental Attitudes Favorable to Antisocial Behavior” for 8<sup>th</sup> grade (55%), and 10<sup>th</sup> grade (53.4%). The second highest risk factors are: “Poor Family Management” for 8<sup>th</sup> grade (42.4%) and “Parental Attitudes Favorable towards Drug Use” for 10<sup>th</sup> grade (44.6%). Family Domain items were not asked on the 6<sup>th</sup> grade HYS.
- In the Individual-Peer Domain, “Perceived Risk of Drug Use” is the highest ranking risk factor for 6<sup>th</sup> grade is (34.2%). The top risk factor is “Rewards for Antisocial Involvement” for 8<sup>th</sup> grade (50.6%) and “Interaction with Antisocial Peers” for 10<sup>th</sup> grade (47.5%).
- In the School Domain, the top risk factor for 6<sup>th</sup> grade is “Low Commitment to School” (44.3%). “Academic Failure” is the highest risk factor for 8<sup>th</sup> grade (49.3%) and 10<sup>th</sup> grade (48.5%).

#### *Protective Factors*

- From 6<sup>th</sup> grade to 10<sup>th</sup> grade, there appears to be an upward trend in the percentage of students who are protected.
- In the Community domain, the protective factor showing the lowest level of students protected is “Rewards for Prosocial Involvement” for all grades: 6<sup>th</sup> grade (39.3%), 8<sup>th</sup> grade (54.9%), and 10<sup>th</sup> grade (57.5%).
- In the Family Domain, the protective factor with the lowest rate for 6<sup>th</sup> grade is “Opportunities for Prosocial Involvement” (54.2%). HYS data for 8<sup>th</sup> grade and 10<sup>th</sup> grade levels were unavailable for Family Domain items.

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- In the Individual-Peer Domain, the protective factor showing the lowest level of students protected is “Prosocial Involvement” for all grades: 6<sup>th</sup> grade (41.7%), 8<sup>th</sup> grade (38%) and 10<sup>th</sup> grade (40%).
  - In the School Domain, the protective factor showing the lowest level of students protected is “Rewards for Prosocial Involvement”: 6<sup>th</sup> grade (52.1%), 8<sup>th</sup> grade (52.6%), and 10<sup>th</sup> grade (58.9%).

#### *Other Prevalence Data*

- The percentage of students who reported drinking alcohol in the past month of the survey increased from 6<sup>th</sup> grade (4.4%) through 10<sup>th</sup> grade (31.9%). The 8<sup>th</sup> grade rate is 16.7% which is six times the 6<sup>th</sup> grade rate and approximately half of the 10<sup>th</sup> grade rate.
- The percentage of students who reported using marijuana or hashish in the past month of the survey jumps from 6<sup>th</sup> grade (1.5%) through 10<sup>th</sup> grade (17%). The 8<sup>th</sup> grade rate is 9.7% which is six times the 6<sup>th</sup> grade rate and nearly half of the 10<sup>th</sup> grade rate.
- The percentage of students who reported ever seriously considered attempting suicide in the past year of the survey range from 8<sup>th</sup> grade (15.4%) to 10<sup>th</sup> grade (20.7%).
- The percentage of students who reported being bullied in the past month of the survey drops from 6<sup>th</sup> grade (30.6%) through 10<sup>th</sup> grade (21.8%). The 8<sup>th</sup> grade rate is 28.6%.

Another look revealed that:

- Community risk factors are especially elevated for South King County.
- The highest risk for Favorable Attitudes Towards Anti-Social Behavior is in South King County.
- Rates of academic failure are highest for South King County 8th and 10th graders.
- The set of peer-individual risk factors are clearly elevated for South King County youth. At the 8th grade, Interactions with Anti-Social Peers is one where the rates are particularly high for South King County in contrast with the County and State.
- For South King County 8th graders, Prosocial Involvement (38% protected) is very low in comparison with other regions.
- Suicide ideation is higher for South King County youth.

Poor family management has been shown to increase the risk of drug abuse delinquency, teen pregnancy, school dropout, and violence. Renton, Auburn, Kent, Federal Way (School Districts), Black Diamond (Tahoma School District), and Burien (Highline School District) youth report rules in their homes are not clear. Most report their parents would not catch them if they drank alcohol, and most also reported their parents usually did not know where they are or who they are with when they are not at home (Healthy Youth Survey 2002). One quarter of 12<sup>th</sup> graders

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also reported use of illicit drugs within the last 30 days of the survey (Renton Healthy Youth Survey 2002).

According to both 2000 and 2002 Healthy Youth Survey reports, 40.0% of students in Auburn 6<sup>th</sup> grade had tried alcohol, 75.0% had tried cigarettes. Auburn placed 4<sup>th</sup> in the number of moderate and high risk youth sentenced in King County.

In all data for 2000 and 2002, South King County schools showed higher rates of youth experiencing with alcohol and marijuana which started with smoking tobacco in the 6<sup>th</sup> grade.

#### Other Violence Prevention Data

There are 390,646 children under 18 years of age living in King County. Two out of every five children reside in South King County.

Based on 2000 U.S. Census data, every year approximately 40,000 children and youth living in South King County are exposed to domestic violence. Recent meta-analyses have shown that children exposed to domestic violence exhibit significantly more problems than children not so exposed. South King County currently has limited resources for screening and intervention with children exposed to domestic violence. Current services for traumatized children focus on physical and sexual abuse.

Along with domestic violence, gang related incidents are on the rise in South King County. Cyber bullying and use of technology as a bullying tool is also becoming popular. At one Auburn middle school, 68% of students said they felt most at risk of being bullied between classes and after school. In addition, 60% of those youth reported having seen or heard another student being bullied. Similar remarks were heard in Federal Way, Tukwila and Burien area schools. In South King County, gang-related property crime is increasing as well as tagging and gang graffiti.

#### Emerging Issues and Other Concerns

The following are some of the identified emerging issues and concerns in South King County:

- Illegal gangs
- Domestic and youth violence (also Vashon Island)
- Adult and youth substance abuse (also Vashon Island)
- Methamphetamines use and production (manufacturing and selling)
- Adults and youth in transition (homeless, foster care, truant, corrections) (also Vashon Island)

Issues that continue to plague South King County residents are the lack of health services, transportation and affordable housing.

Many youth report the “lack of anything to do.” This has been substantiated by funding cuts over the years for youth activities. Youth also face difficulties getting to prevention programs if they are dependent upon public transportation which has limited service in some areas of South King County.

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In community assessments conducted through South King County area, transportation has been identified as a stress and as a barrier to families seeking services due to traffic congestion and limited public transportation.

In South King County there are increased concentrations of immigrant and refugee populations, but less access to services. Many of these families don't know where or how to access resources. There is a growing problem of language/cultural barriers and, in some cases, a resurgence of racism since 9/11. Along with challenges in race relations, are high numbers of unreported (yet known in social service circles) domestic violence incidents. Throughout South King County there is a limited availability of culturally competent service providers for youth and older people. Access to needed resources, understanding American culture and laws, finding jobs and learning English are significant service issues.

Based on interviews with community key informants and survey data obtained from King County Community Organizing Program mini-grant recipients, other issues of concern are:

- Suicide ideation
- Bullying (Vashon Island)
- Family use, and favorable attitudes to use (peers also) (Vashon Island)
- Not enough (if any) after school programs
- Lack of parent supervision – parents are not home between 3:00-7:00 pm, and do not know where the youth are or who they are with (Vashon Island)
- Availability of alcohol – community norms favorable to use